



Dorchester County
Public Schools
Every Child A Success!

SUPERINTENDENT'S STAFF BULLETIN

Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Superintendent

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Welcome Back Edition

It is a genuine pleasure to **welcome all new and returning DCPS staff to the 2011-2012 school year!** It has been a **very busy summer** for so many of us as we assessed our progress during 2010-2011 and set our sights on continuous improvement for the coming year.

So many **interesting and positive** things have happened since the children went home for summer that it is a challenge to capture it all! Thus, I offer the following **summary** in chronological order:

- **June 21 – Dorchester’s Future Is Now!** Over fifty leaders of the **Dorchester business community** collaborated in this historic initial meeting to forge a genuine **partnership** with DCPS. Specific **initiatives** will be announced in September.
- **June 28 – PBIS Schools** recognized at **Wor-Wic Community College**. **Cambridge-South Dorchester High School, Maple Elementary School, and Sandy Hill Elementary School** received achievement awards as returning teams.
- **June 29 – Lt. Gov. Brown** visited the new **Dorchester Career and Technology Center (DCTC)**. The final **\$3.5 million dollars** was awarded symbolically in this celebration of the project’s completion.
- **July 5 – DCPS Summer School** opened at **Mace’s Lane Middle School**. The program experienced another substantial enrollment in **enrichment** courses in mathematics.
- **July 7 – Project 2016 Celebration Banquet**. This initiative, the creation of **Mr. Jon Harper (Assistant Principal of Choptank Elementary School)**, seeks to keep **high-achieving minority students** focused throughout their secondary school experience. Speaking to the group were **Dr. Michial Gill of MSDE, Interim State Superintendent Dr. Bernard Sadusky, and Henry Funeral Home President Janelle Buck**.
- **July 11-13 – Educator Effectiveness Academies**. Funded through the **Race to the Top** program, the academies have focused on the new **Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Standards and Frameworks**, as well as the relationship between the State's vision of **Science, Technology,**

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and the Common Core. All DCPS schools were well-represented in this professional development initiative.

- **July 18-19 - Aspiring Principals Institute.** Six DCPS present and aspiring administrators ably represented DCPS in this activity, jointly sponsored by **MSDE and ESMEC.**
- **July 25-26 – Elementary School Improvement Planning Retreats.** The school teams were reminded of the need to make their respective school improvement plans **living documents**, to be mindful of **systemic initiatives**, and to maintain **flexibility** as larger state and national issues are resolved.

Coming shortly in August will be the **Middle and High School Improvement Planning Retreats** and the **Administrators’ and Supervisors’ Retreat.**

August Inservice Days and the New DCTC

As our *Welcome Back To School* flyer indicates, ten month certificated staff will return on **Tuesday, August 16.** Our **System-wide Gathering for All Staff** will take place on **Wednesday, August 17** at the new **Dorchester Career and Technology Center.** As mentioned in previous bulletins, each employee will tour the new facility on this date and thereby obtain a first-hand understanding of how this remarkable asset can assist us in our mission to provide appropriate **career and college preparatory options** for all of our students. In lieu of our traditional back-to-school system-wide assembly this year, I will be visiting and addressing each school staff.

Name and Location Change

The services provided formerly under the title of the **Alternative Learning Center** will this fall be relocated to the **Student Services Complex** portion of the **old School Of Technology** building. Additionally, the new name of the program, the **New Directions Learning Academy**, reflects a spirit of **optimism** and an awareness of **assets** as opposed to deficits as we address the needs of these students.

Covey Reflection

*“Habit One, **Be Proactive**, is all about taking responsibility for your life. Highly proactive people don’t blame circumstances, conditions, or conditioning for their behavior. Their behavior is a product of their own choice.”*

Let us resolve to foster this sense of ownership in our students, whether the issue is **achievement, behavior, or character.**